



CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY BOARD OF TRUSTEES
C/O TRUSTEE SECRETARIAT
401 GOLDEN SHORE, SUITE 136
LONG BEACH, CA 90802

RE: CSU Exploration of Requiring Four Years of Mathematics/Quantitative Reasoning for Incoming Students

Dear CSU Board of Trustees,

As the President of Associated Students, Incorporated, the officially recognized voice of 28,000 students at Cal State LA, I am writing to express my opposition to the fourth-year math proposal.

In addition to enrolling large numbers of low-income students, Cal State LA has propelled a higher percentage of students from the bottom fifth of income into the top fifth of US earners and is ranked number one in upward mobility. However, in Fall 2020, the university will designate all majors, including pre-majors and undeclared, impacted at the freshman and transfer levels allowing for new major-specific criteria for admission at all levels. This, coupled with the possibility of a fourth-year math requirement, creates an equity and accessibility concern. Put simply, adding a fourth year of mathematics/quantitative reasoning to the existing rigorous, college-preparatory curriculum known as "A-G" will further exacerbate access challenges at Cal State LA.

Recent reports from the Campaign for College Opportunity found that less than 40% of Black and Latinx high school graduates were given the opportunity to complete the A-G curriculum by their high schools. That means that over 60% of Black and Latinx high school graduates are already ineligible to apply to Cal State LA. Requiring a fourth year of quantitative reasoning to the CSU eligibility criteria will likely have the impact of increasing this number and producing even more racial/ethnic disparity at a university that currently has 3.5% Black student enrollment (IPEDS).

The right to a college education is under attack. If the Chancellor's Office approves a request to add a fourth year of mathematics/quantitative reasoning, our community, and the Eastside of Los Angeles County, will be deeply affected for generations. For these reasons, I ask that you do not support this proposal and reaffirm your commitment to an open and accessible CSU education.

In solidarity,

Aaron Castañeda
President
Associated Students, Incorporated
California State University, Los Angeles